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USA Team Wins Big at 2012 International Olympiad in Informatics

Brian C. Dean, Director, USA Computing Olympiad

Sirmione, a town on the shores of Lake Garda in Northern Italy, is normally a popular tourist destination for those who love beautiful scenery and excellent pasta. For one week in September 2012, however, this picturesque town was home to a special crowd: 310 of the best high-school computing students from around the world, who were representing their respective countries at the International Olympiad in Informatics.

Now in its 24th year, the IOI, one of several major international math and science Olympiads, is the world's most prestigious computing competition at the high-school level. Teams of up to four students arrive from each participating country (81 this year) to take part in a grueling two-day competition featuring some of the hardest algorithmic programming problems one can find. When the dust settles, top individuals are awarded gold, silver, and bronze medals according to their results. This year was one of the best ever for team USA, which won three golds and one bronze, just behind China and Russia with four golds each. Even better, USA student Johnny Ho achieved the only perfect score at the event, edging out superstar Gennady Korotkevich from Belarus, winner of the previous three IOIs.

For team USA, the road to the IOI starts approximately one year before the event, with a series of monthly on-line

programming competitions hosted by the USA Computing Olympiad. The USACO (usaco.org) is a non-profit organization funded by USENIX and other corporate sponsors, which provides training and online programming competitions for talented high school students at all levels, from novice students who have just learned to program to advanced students competing at the level of the IOI. Tens of thousands of students have participated in USACO training and competitions over the past decade alone. With high school computing education in the USA being in a somewhat lackluster state, the USACO plays a vital role in ensuring that bright students can continue to develop their skills beyond the standard high school computing curriculum.

Every year, the USACO invites the top 16 high school computing students nationwide to attend a rigorous academic summer camp, where they participate in advanced instruction in computational problem-solving techniques, excursions, enrichment activities, and, of course, plenty of ultimate frisbee. Every camp also features a game programming challenge for fun; this year, students teamed up to write programs to compete in a "blind man's bluff" poker game, which means you can see everyone's cards except yours. From USACO camp, the top four students are selected to represent the USA at the IOI. This year, team USA consisted of:

- Johnny Ho (gold medal, 1st place winner), from Lynbrook High School in California
- Mitchell Lee (gold medal), home-schooled in Virginia
- Scott Wu (gold medal), from Baton Rouge Magnet High School in Louisiana
- Daniel Ziegler (bronze medal), from Davidson Academy in Nevada

Traveling to the IOI in Italy with the team this year were team leader and USACO director Brian Dean and deputy leader Jacob Steinhardt. Brian is a

computer science professor at Clemson University, and Jacob recently graduated from MIT and is beginning his PhD studies in computer science at Stanford under the direction of new Stanford professor Percy Liang, also a USACO alum and previous IOI medalist.

In addition to two full days of competition, IOI participants were treated to the best of Italian culture and cuisine, and excursions to Milan and Venice. IOI 2012 was an unforgettable experience. We look forward to another strong showing for team USA next summer at IOI 2013 in Brisbane, Australia.

Thanks to Our Volunteers

Anne Dickison and Casey Henderson, USENIX Co-Executive Directors

As many of our members know, USENIX's success is attributable to a large number of volunteers, who lend their expertise and support for our conferences, publications, good works, and member services. They work closely with our staff to bring you the best there is in the fields of systems research and system administration. Many of you have participated on program committees, steering committees, and subcommittees, as well as contributing to this magazine. We are most grateful to you all. We would like to make special mention of some people who made particularly significant contributions in 2012.

First, we would like to offer special thanks again to Margo Seltzer, President of the USENIX Board of Directors, for her service as Acting Executive Director of USENIX until we took over the reins in April of this year.

Program Chairs

William J. Bolosky and Jason Flinn: 10th USENIX Conference on File and Storage Technologies (FAST '12)

Steven Gribble and Dina Katabi: 9th USENIX Symposium on Networked Systems Design and Implementation (NSDI '12)

Olivier Bonaventure and Ramana Kompella: 2nd USENIX Workshop on Hot Topics in Management of Internet, Cloud, and Enterprise Networks and Services (Hot-ICE '12)

Engin Kirda: 5th USENIX Workshop on Large-Scale Exploits and Emergent Threats (LEET '12)

Hans-J. Boehm and Luis Ceze: 4th USENIX Workshop on Hot Topics in Parallelism (HotPar '12)

Gernot Heiser and Wilson Hsieh: 2012 USENIX Annual Technical Conference (USENIX ATC '12)

Michael Maximilien: 3rd USENIX Conference on Web Application Development (WebApps '12)

Rodrigo Fonseca and Dave Maltz: 4th USENIX Workshop on Hot Topics in Cloud Computing (HotCloud '12)

Raju Rangaswami: 4th USENIX Workshop on Hot Topics in Storage and File Systems (HotStorage '12)

Christopher Walsh: 2012 USENIX Workshop on Hot Topics in Cyberlaw (USENIX Cyberlaw '12)

Daniel V. Klein: 2012 USENIX Configuration Management Summit (UCMS '12)

Nicole Forsgren Velasquez and Carolyn Rowland: 2012 USENIX Women in Advanced Computing Summit (WiAC '12)

Umut A. Acar and Todd J. Green: 4th USENIX Workshop on the Theory and Practice of Provenance (TaPP '12)

Kameswari Chebrolu and Brian Noble: 6th USENIX/ACM Workshop on Networked Systems for Developing Regions (NSDR '12)

Tadayoshi Kohno: 21st USENIX Security Symposium (USENIX Security '12)

J. Alex Halderman and Olivier Pereira: 2012 Electronic Voting Technology Workshop/Workshop on Trustworthy Elections (EVT/WOTE '12)

Sean Peisert and Stephen Schwab: 5th Workshop on Cyber Security Experimentation and Test (CSET '12)

Roger Dingledine and Joss Wright: 2nd USENIX Workshop on Free and Open Communications on the Internet (FOCI '12)

Carl Gunter and Zachary Peterson: 3rd USENIX Workshop on Health Security and Privacy (HealthSec '12)

Patrick Traynor: 7th USENIX Workshop on Hot Topics in Security (HotSec '12)

Anton Chuvakin: Seventh Workshop on Security Metrics (MetriCon 7.0)

Elie Bursztein and Thomas Dullien: 6th USENIX Workshop on Offensive Technologies (WOOT '12)

Chandu Thekkath and Amin Vahdat: 10th USENIX Symposium on Operating Systems Design and Implementation (OSDI '12)

Michael J. Freedman and Neeraj Suri: Eighth Workshop on Hot Topics in System Dependability (HotDep '12)

Mani Srivastava and Thomas F. Wenisch: 2012 Workshop on Power-Aware Computing and Systems (HotPower '12)

Peter Bodik and Greg Bronevetsky: 2012 Workshop on Managing Systems Automatically and Dynamically (MAD '12)

Dilma Da Silva, Jeanna Matthews, and James Mickens: 2012 Workshop on Supporting Diversity in Systems Research (Diversity '12)

Carolyn Rowland: 26th Large Installation System Administration Conference (LISA '12)

Invited Talks/Special Track Chairs

James Mickens, Florentina Popovici, and Jiri Schindler: Posters and Work-in-Progress Reports (WiPs) Committee at FAST

John Strunk: Tutorial Chair at FAST

Srikanth Kandula: Poster Session Coordinator at NSDI

Emil Sit: Poster Session Coordinator at USENIX ATC

David Evans, David Molnar, Bruce Potter, and Margo Seltzer: Invited Talks Committee at USENIX Security

Matt Bishop: Poster Session Coordinator at USENIX Security

Matt Blaze: Rump Session Chair at USENIX Security

Shan Lu and Junfeng Yang: Poster Session Co-Chairs at OSDI

Narayan Desai, Cory Lueninghoener, and Kent Skaar: Invited Talks Coordinators at LISA

Lee Damon: Lightning Talks Coordinator at LISA

Kyrre Begnum: Workshops Coordinator at LISA

Chris St. Pierre: Guru Is In Coordinator at LISA

Marc Chiarini: Poster Session Coordinator at LISA

Other Major Contributors

John Arrasjid, David Blank-Edelman, Sasha Fedorova, Matt Blaze, Clem Cole, Alva Couch, Brian Noble, Niels Provos, Carolyn Rowland, Margo Seltzer, and Dan Wallach for their service on the USENIX Board of Directors

Dan Geer, Eric Allman, and Niels Provos for serving on the Audit Committee

Alva Couch for chairing the USENIX Board of Directors Nominating Committee

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Jacob Farmer of Cambridge Computer for his sponsorship of the traveling LISA Data Storage Day series and for organizing the Storage Pavilion and Data Storage Day at LISA '12

Mark Burgess and Diego Zamboni for writing the Short Topics book published by USENIX in 2012

Matt Simmons, Ben Cotton, and Greg Riedesel for blogging about USENIX and LISA '12 activities